

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling personal information of a user using a client computer system enabled to be
5 communicatively connected to a plurality of network entities in a network environment, comprising:

storing personal information of the user at the client computer system;

receiving a request from a first network entity to send
10 the personal information stored at the client to at least one other network entity;

enabling the at least one other network entity to be selectable by the user;

enabling the personal information to be edited; and
15 sending the edited personal information from the client computer system to each of the selected ones of the at least one other network entity.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the
20 personal information to be edited further comprises enabling the personal information to be separately edited for each selected ones of the at least one other network entity.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising
25 watermarking the edited personal information before sending the personal information.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
uniquely watermarking each one of the separately edited
30 personal information before sending each of the separately

edited personal information to each selected ones of the at least one network entity.

5 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving an indication of a remuneration from the first network entity in response to sending the edited personal information to selected ones of the at least one network entity.

10 6. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a request further comprises receiving, with the request, a financial incentive to comply with the request.

15 7. A method of participating in a distribution of personal information of a user in a network environment, comprising:

 receiving initial personal information from the user over a network;

20 sending a request to the user requesting the user to send the initial personal information of the user to at least one other specified network entity;

 sending, with the request, an indication of a financial incentive to comply with the request; and

25 receiving a copy of the user personal information sent to the at least one other specified network entity from the user.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

comparing the received copy of the user personal information with the received initial personal information; and

5 sending a remuneration, based on the comparison, to the user for complying at least in part with the request.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving a first remuneration from each of the at least one other specified network entity to which the user
10 personal information was sent.

10. A method of participating in a distribution of personal information of a user in a network environment, comprising:

15 receiving personal information of the user from the user with an indication of a requesting network entity; and sending a second remuneration to the indicated requesting network entity in response to receiving the personal information.

20 11. A data processing system, comprising:

a communications device enabling communication over a network;

a first memory having a set of instructions;

25 a second memory having personal information of a user;

a processing unit executing the set of instructions in the first memory to enable receipt of a request from a first network entity through the communications device to send the personal information stored in the second memory to at least
30 one other network entity; to enable the at least one other

network entity to be selectable by the user; to enable the personal information to be edited; and to send the edited personal information to each of the selected ones of the at least one other network entity.

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12. A computer system enabled to be communicatively connected to a plurality of network entities in a network environment, comprising:

means for storing personal information of a user;

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means for receiving a request from a first network entity to send the stored personal information to at least one other network entity;

means for enabling the at least one other network entity to be selectable by the user;

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means for enabling the personal information to be edited; and

means for sending the edited personal information to each of the selected ones of the at least one other network entity.

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13. The system of claim 12 further comprising means for watermarking the edited personal information before sending the personal information.

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14. A computer system enabled to be communicatively connected to a plurality of network entities in a network environment, comprising:

means for receiving initial personal information from a user over a network;

means for sending a request to the user requesting the user to send the initial personal information of the user to at least one other specified network entity;

means for sending, with the request, an indication of a
5 financial incentive to comply with the request; and

means for receiving a copy of the user personal information sent to the at least one other specified network entity from the user.

10 15. The computer system of claim 14 further comprising:

means for comparing the received copy of the user personal information with the received initial personal information; and

15 means for sending a first remuneration, based on the comparison, to the user for complying at least in part with the request.

20 16. The computer system of claim 15 further comprising:

means for receiving a second remuneration from each of the at least one other specified network entity to which the user personal information was sent.

25 17. A computer system enabled to be communicatively connected to a plurality of network entities in a network environment, comprising:

means for receiving personal information of a user from the user with an indication of a requesting network entity;

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means for sending a remuneration to the indicated requesting network entity in response to the received personal information.

5 18. A computer program having computer readable instruction code means on a computer usable medium, comprising:

instruction means enabling a storing of personal information of a user;

10 instruction means enabling receipt of a request from a first network entity to send the stored personal information to at least one other network entity;

instruction means for enabling the at least one other network entity to be selectable by the user;

15 instruction means for enabling the personal information to be edited; and

instruction means for sending the edited personal information from the client computer system to each of the selected ones of the at least one other network entity.

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19. The computer program of claim 18 further comprising instruction means for watermarking the edited personal information before sending the personal information.

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20. A computer program having computer readable instruction code means on a computer usable medium, comprising:

instruction means for enabling receipt of initial

30 personal information from a user over the network;

instruction means for sending a request to the user requesting the user to send the initial personal information of the user to at least one other specified network entity;

instruction means for sending, with the request, an
5 indication of a financial incentive to comply with the request; and

instruction means for enabling receipt of a copy of the user personal information sent to the at least one other specified network entity from the user.

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21. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising:

instruction means for comparing the received copy of the user personal information with the received initial
15 personal information; and

instruction means for sending a first remuneration, based on the comparison, to the user for complying at least in part with the request.

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22. The computer program of claim 21 further comprising:

instruction means for enabling receipt of a second remuneration from each of the at least one other specified network entity to which the user personal information was
25 sent.

23. A computer program having computer readable instruction code means on a computer usable medium, comprising:

instruction means for enabling receipt of personal information of a user from the user with an indication of a requesting network entity; and

instruction means for sending a remuneration to the
5 indicated requesting network entity in response to the received personal information.